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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 19 | Humidity 61% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 66,282 | Nifty 19,751 | Gold 59,415 | Silver 71,368 | Dollar 83.42 | Euro 87.70 | GBP 101.14

How suburban rail is setting up 'raised formations' to do away with rail under-bridge crossings prone to flooding

THE GREAT LEVELLER

K-RIDE eliminates 23 level crossings, saves Rs 130 cr

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While constructing Corridor 2 of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), the implementing agency opted for a new method — 'raised formations', an alternative to rail underbridges (RUBs) that flood during the monsoon.

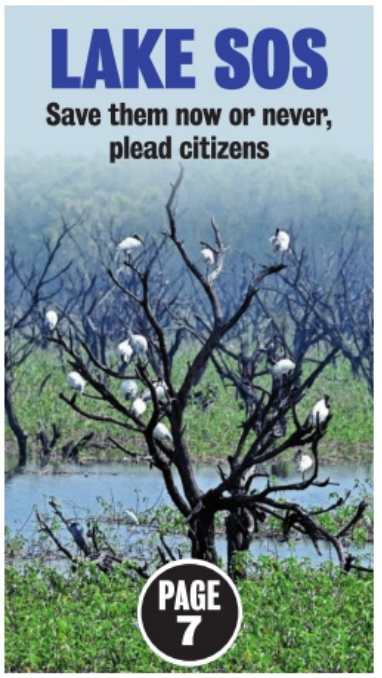
With many RUBs left waterlogged during the rainy season, the raised formations are a plausible model for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to adopt as well.

The new design implemented in Corridor 2 of the BSRP is proposed for Corridor 1 too. The design is cost-effective by reducing land acquisition costs and quite useful in crowded areas.

In Bengaluru, the common practice to do away with level crossings is to construct RUBs. That said, RUBs are oftentimes prone to water logging. During monsoon, it's almost impossible and dangerous to use RUBs as most are 5 m below the ground. So, land has to be acquired and earth shifted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"We are planning the 'raised formation' at the level crossing between Hebbal and Banaswadi railway stations**
>
> — K-RIDE official



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Bengaluru gets into festive mode

Festival of triumph

Festive fervour catches on as Dasara kickstarts with Navaratri 'Mata Ki Chowki'

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It's festive time in the city as Dasara kickstarted on Sunday. The Punjabi Sabha community in Bengaluru took the initiative to celebrate Navaratri's first day by organising a 'Mata Ki Chowki' event at Princess Golf, Palace grounds on Sunday. Navaratri, which translates to "Nine Nights" in Sanskrit, is one of India's most widely celebrated festivals. It is a time of deep reverence for the divine feminine and the triumph of good over evil. During these nine nights, each day is dedicated to a different manifestation of Goddess Durga.

The event was a spiritual gathering and a vibrant celebration of music and dance, integral to Navaratri festivities. The renowned singer Mani Ladla and his troupe from Amritsar graced the occasion with a musical performance that enthralled the audience. The Punjabi community in Bengaluru, under the banner of Punjabi Sabha, united to enjoy the melodic performance, with many joining in the singing and dancing. Organisers said that the proceeds from this event will be dedicated to supporting various charitable initiatives. These include providing essential medical care for disadvantaged girl children, ensuring their education and residence, and offering annual rations to elderly residents in old age homes. Over the past 17 years, the Mata Ki Chowki event has been a testament to the community's commitment to helping those in need during Navaratri.

> **"We Punjabis get together and contribute to help girls and elderly residents from old age homes. We identify their issues and support them** – Janak Raj Madaan, President of Punjabi Sabha

Janak Raj Madaan, President of Punjabi Sabha, said, "We Punjabis get together and contribute to help girls and elderly residents from old age homes. Many underprivileged children, particularly girls, lack the resources to attend school, and we identify and support such cases. This is the 17th year of celebrating this event, and we believe that Navaratri is a sacred time when people fast. For devotees who are fasting and even those who aren't, we provide fasting food, known as 'Maha Prasad'. Kuttu ka atta, also known as Buckwheat flour, is a gluten-free flour extracted from a fruit seed of the Fagopyrum esculentum plant. It is cultivated as a grain-like seed and widely consumed in Asia and Europe. The 'Vrat ka Khana' has religious significance, including fruits, aloo ki sabzi, sabudana khichdi, and, most importantly, Kuttu ka Atta or buckwheat flour. Contrary to misconceptions, forsaking regular grains like rice and wheat during Navaratri doesn't hamper nutrition; Kuttu Ka Atta is considered a powerhouse of nutrition.

The Punjabi Sabha community celebrates Navaratri's first day by organising a 'Mata Ki Chowki' event at Princess Golf, Palace grounds

Dandiya nights

Dandiya nights in Bengaluru set to enchant city with fusion of tradition and modernity during Navaratri. Pankaj Kothari, CEO of Sagar Caterers, said, "Dandiya is one of the eagerly awaited programmes in the City. This time, Chirag and Paresh Orchestra from Mulund Bombay will lead the musical festivities for their 15 member troop. This eight-day programme will be held between October 17 to 28 along with a food festival at Gayatri Vihar." Rotary Bugle Rock and Rotary District 3191 Shristi Centre are jointly organising the Navaratri Dandiya Festival on October 18 at Ravindra Kalakshetra. Dr. A.V. Satyanarayana, Director of Shristi, highlighted the event's inclusivity, where attendees can dance to traditional dandiya folk songs as well as Bollywood dandiya hits like "Dhol Baaje" and "Pingara Pinga."

Mysuru Dasara inaugurated

Music director Hamsalekha inaugurated the historic Mysuru Dasara festival on Sunday, accompanied by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar, and other cabinet colleagues. Siddaramaiah mentioned that the state government is organising the Dasara festival in a simple way this year due to drought while still keeping with tradition. "We have prayed to the Goddess Chamundeshwari (the prime deity of Mysuru city) that we will receive good rains during the monsoon," he added. Mysuru Dasara is celebrated as 'Nada Habba' (State festival), attracting people from across the world. Through this event, Karnataka conveys its tradition, culture, language, and the state's development to its people. Over the next 10 days, Mysuru will host cultural events, including the Kushti competition. The grand finale of Mysuru Dasara is eagerly awaited on Vijaya Dashami, scheduled for October 24.

Gombe Habba

Dasara isn't complete without 'Gombe Habba' (the festival of dolls). Though in earlier days, 'Gombe Habba' was quite common in many households, many Bengalureans even today prepare for months to organise 'Gombe Habba'. Interestingly, 'Gombe Habba' is not the repetition of the same dolls placed year after year. Instead, a new theme is chosen every year, and some families have become so famous for their doll displays that people eagerly await to see how the dolls' story unfolds each year. The most thrilling part of Dasara is the excitement of arranging the dolls.

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Today's Colour
WHITE
The joyous Navaratri festival has arrived, and it's time to immerse yourself in the celebrations with Bangalore Mirror Navarang. Ladies, here's the exciting part – you have the opportunity to adorn yourself in sarees of the colour designated for the day. Gather your favorite companions, capture group selfies in your vibrant sarees, and be sure to embrace the day's thematic color.
Share your group photos/selfies, including names, addresses, and mobile numbers, with us on our WhatsApp line by 3 PM daily.
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The most captivating group photo stands a chance to be showcased in BM-Navarang
Please note-Tomorrow's colour code is Red
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2 THINGS TO DO

01 Dance delight

Immerse yourself in a cultural extravaganza during this auspicious Navaratri season. Experience the joy of traditional dance as you sway to the tunes of Garbha during our vibrant Dandiya night. Enjoy "Navakalpana," an exhibit celebrating the artworks of 9 women artists. Let's come together to honour the divine feminine and appreciate the immense talent that these artists bring to the world. **Where: Lahe Lahe**
When: until October 23, 11 am to 8 pm

02 Soulful rhythms

Embrace the deep-rooted connection between dance and Mother Earth in "Aurvi: Of the Earth", a solo Odissi dance performance. Don't miss this poetic and evocative performance by Abhayalakshmi, a revered artist celebrated nationally and internationally.
Where: Medai- The stage;
When: October 22, 6.30 pm

Saluting 50 years of shaping minds

A multitude of students and teachers from east Bangalore graced the occasion to thank and celebrate the 75th birthday of the legend GH Nagarajaiah Shetty. This educationist has moulded the lives of thousands of youngsters for the last 50 years. A visionary who established many schools in east Bangalore to uplift poor children by empowering them with a quality education. His contribution to society was recognised by thousands who graced the event, which was organised by the GHN committee.

Woman narrowly escapes customer care con

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Folks, beware of fraudsters posing as customer care personnel if you have done some online shopping recently. A woman in the city recently brought this to the notice of the shopping portal Flipkart that somebody claiming to be from the company had called her twice when she shopped from the site. The fraudsters asked her to hold the call and in the meantime tried to hack her bank account. Flipkart said that they are investigating the matter.

"I wanted to return a dress which was not accepted by the delivery person, who had come for the pickup. There were two issues- one it was not fitting and another colour was dull. It was not accepted as I had mentioned only one issue of size. I was furious and called the customer care," the victim told BM.

The customer care person asked her to be on hold and suddenly she

got a call and even a number recognising app showed it as Flipkart's number.

"I thought it was the senior executive's number. Initially he spoke politely in English for a few lines and then started to speak in Hindi. He said, we are sorry for this, we will refund you immediately. I was a bit relieved and trusted them," she added.

The person on the other side said he would take an online meeting and send a code to her.

"He asked me to download an app, which I did. He asked me to take a picture of my debit card and upload it and I did that. Then he asked me to take the pic of CVV number and upload it," claims the victim.

The victim then realised that she was getting into a trap as she got suspicious about giving the CVV number. "Then I called 1930 and informed the cyber station. They asked me to report it to the nearest station," she said.

The woman then took to social media to complain about the issue. The Flipkart official handle said, "We're extremely sorry to hear about your experience. Thank you for bringing this to our notice, rest assured we do not take such instances lightly and would like to get more details for further action."

Guard turns attacker at Cubbon Park

Man claiming to be security in-charge allegedly stops, assaults skaters, some of them minors

A group of youngsters hoping to skate in Cubbon Park were attacked by a person claiming to be the security personnel in charge of the premises on Saturday.

Bengaluru Skaters, a community of skaters the complainants belong to, took to Instagram and explained the ordeal.

The group said that while the boys were wearing their skates, they were heckled by a person who claimed to be the head of security at Cubbon Park who said that skating within the park premises was not allowed in accordance with orders of the Deputy Director of the Horticulture Department.

"When asked for an official notice about the order, he started attacking the skaters and physically attacked even minors. This is beyond outrageous for happening to tax-paying citizens in a public park," the group wrote, along with videos of the incident.

They also noted that the accused was not in uniform designated for security personnel at the park and did not possess any identification confirming his claim.

The group of skaters with social worker St Broseph paid a visit to the Cubbon Park police station and have got a non-cognizable report (NCR) registered. They said that they would be visiting court on Monday in order to complete further procedures. Netizens have expressed their anger over the issue. "What's wrong with skateboarding in a park? Video taking is not allowed but assaulting is. This has to be a joke! These kinds of people should not be allowed in the park," said a user.

In the past year, Cubbon Park has turned infamous for bizarre rules that are severely restrictive. In April, the rules of conduct in the premises were revised to prohibit eating, conducting theater performances and "obscene" behaviour by couples, brewing a controversy.

Cubbon Reads, a reading community that gathers in the park every Saturday, took to Instagram and said, "We are so sorry to read that this happened to you (Bengaluru Skaters)! It's really unfortunate how easily such vigilantes proclaim bizarre and unsaid rules, to restrict our access to public spaces in the city. We really hope you guys are able to go past this situation and emerge even stronger." **BMB**

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Civic hurdles in AECS Layout, Doddanekundi

Citizens express concerns over stalled Rajakaluve construction, poor road maintenance, safety hazards

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The residents of Ward 102 in AECS Layout and Ward 101 in Doddanekundi have voiced their grievances regarding a myriad of civic issues, asserting that these challenges disrupt their daily lives and jeopardise the environment and public health. From stalled Rajakaluve construction to inadequate road maintenance and safety hazards, these concerns demand urgent attention from local authorities.

In the AECS Layout, residents expressed distress over the halting of Rajakaluve construction. The ongoing construction of Rajakaluve, initiated in January 2023 between Chinnappanahalli Lake and Munnekolala, has come to a standstill. This project had aimed to manage stormwater and prevent flooding but has now been filled with sewage and overflows during rains. The uncertainty surrounding when the work will resume has created severe concerns. "Stagnant sewage near the open ends of the Rajakaluve can lead to the depletion of water quality, posing a risk to the health of surrounding communities and potentially damaging the ecosystem," said a resident. Additionally, the residents complained of a number of potholes opposite the Village Supermarket and in the Spice Garden Layout. These potholes have led to accidents and heavy traffic jams daily. Although multiple complaints have been raised, no action has been taken to address this issue. Another issue highlighted was that the wastewater from the newly constructed tech park has been entering Chinnappanahalli Lake.

Stalled Rajakaluve construction between Chinnappanahalli Lake and Munnekolala; crater near a supermarket at Spice Garden

In Doddanekundi ward, commuters are alarmed by dangerous potholes at the Marathahalli flyover, posing a substantial threat to riders. The risk of accidents is significant as hundreds of people utilise the flyover daily. A resident said, "The Marathahalli flyover has been plagued by five dangerous potholes that pose a threat to riders, leading to accidents and vehicle damage. This apart, huge craters at the village supermarket in Spice Garden Layout pose a serious danger. The recent rains have compounded the bad situation."

Bad road conditions in the 11th cross road in Chinnapanahalli have not been rectified for several years, despite repeated appeals to the BBMP and local political leaders. The 2,500+ residents continue to receive only empty promises without any tangible actions.

Srinivas Reddy, a Member of BNP, said, "While the government proposes impressive projects like brand Bengaluru while the growing civic concerns at the grassroots ward level remain unaddressed. What we truly need is to enhance the quality of life for our residents, commencing at the ward level, by promoting citizen involvement and infusing transparency and accountability into all projects. This, in turn, will contribute to the development of a sustainable and environmentally sound infrastructure, a brand we can proudly call our own." Indira Belde, another member, said, "The surge in civic issues in the city is a clear sign of negligence and disinterest exhibited by the responsible authorities and the administration.

> **"The Marathahalli flyover has been plagued by five dangerous potholes that pose a threat to riders, leading to accidents** – a resident

In addition, irregular ward committee meetings deprived residents of a platform to voice their civic concerns. It is imperative that the local authorities take prompt and effective action to address the civic issues."

Steps towards bliss: Kaggadasapura Lake's new path beckons

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Kaggadasapura Lake, a favoured spot for morning and evening walks, is set to become even more inviting. The much-awaited walking path is on track to be completed by the end of this month, providing a great relief to walkers. The laying of pavers began last Saturday, signalling progress. "I have directed the officials and the contractor to complete the laying of pavers by this month end. I want to inaugurate Kaggadasapura Lake for the public on November 1 or in the first week of November. Then Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has sanctioned Rs 8 crore for the rejuvenation of Kaggadasapura Lake," said CV Raman Nagar MLA S Raghu.

The desilting of Kaggadasapura Lake is finished, and stone pitching on the earthen bund is almost completed. Pending works, including the construction of a sewage treatment plant, are crucial for the lake to become a cherished destination for all, including senior citizens and tech professionals and their children. The contractor said the laying of pavers will be completed by this month end. "It will depend on the weather in the city. It will be tough to carry the work if it rains," said the contractor.

Development of walking path is in progress at Kaggadasapura Lake

Meanwhile, residents of Kaggadasapura, Malleshpalya, Maruthi Nagar, Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar, and Jagadeesh Nagar have appreciated the authorities for taking up the development of a much-needed walking path. "Earlier, I used to use the road around BEML Shishya School for a walk. With some restrictions on using those roads, I am coming all the way to Kaggadasapura Lake for a walk. It has two open-air gyms and children's play areas. It will be a great help for people who come here for a walk if the authorities complete the ongoing developmental works," said Ramaiah, a resident of LB Nagar.

The residents said that a one-and-half km long pathway needed to be developed to ensure no hurdles for those who come for a walk. "This stretch, which is under development, becomes slushy whenever it rains, thus making it difficult for people to walk. I appeal to MLA S Raghu to direct the BBMP Lakes Department and the contractor to expedite the ongoing developmental works at the lake," said Lakshmi S, a resident.

The construction of the STP is taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 26.38 crore, and the work is expected to be completed in six or eight months.

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Road disruption
Cubbonpet

After the recent construction of a cement road at Lourdes School 3rd Cross in Cubbonpet, BWSSB is planning to dig up the newly made road to lay sanitary pipes. Citizens are concerned about the repeated disruption.

Footpath danger
Whitefield

The footpath next to EVOMA offices on Whitefield Post Office, Borewell Road, is dangerous with exposed electric cables and open drainage. Urgent action needed for pedestrian safety.

Parking predicament
Jayanagar

Jayanagar 4th Block Shopping Complex is charging Rs 20 for two-wheeler parking and reusing old receipts, raising concerns about transparency and fair practices.

Global Market Trends

Identifying profitable opportunities

India, now the world's most populous nation as of 2023, is set to achieve a real GDP growth of around 6% by the end of the year. This marks the third consecutive year of impressive growth among major economies.

This growth is attributed to several key factors, including a favorable domestic sentiment in the lead-up to an election year, the potential rise in crude oil prices, anticipated improvements in commodity demand, a weakening US dollar, and decreasing interest rates. All of these factors contribute to a climate of both excitement and volatility in the financial markets.

We firmly believe that the Indian equity markets will continue to thrive and that we are entering a pivotal decade for India's economic development. This is why we're witnessing a surge in activity among smaller Indian companies and private equity players. India is well on its way to becoming one of the leading wealth-generating nations globally.

It's essential to consider the broader context of emerging markets alongside India's growth story. While the Indian indices have been experiencing strong gains, it's important not to overlook the fact that many Emerging Market indices remain in a bear market phase, significantly below their peak levels reached around February 8, 2021.

Contrary to expectations, China, a dominant force in these indices, has not yet managed to lift emerging markets from their economic challenges following the withdrawal of strict COVID-19 containment policies. Recent economic data paints a concerning picture, revealing high unemployment rates of nearly 40% and widespread weak demand for durable goods and services.

However, there are potential turning points on the horizon. The US Federal Reserve (the Fed) is anticipated to adopt a more accommodative stance, which could influence the strength of the US dollar. Simultaneously, China is expected to contribute more positively to global trade as its economy rebounds and domestic demand increases. This shift could lead to stronger commodity prices, benefiting countries in Latin America and Asia that rely on commodity exports.

Looking ahead, there's a likelihood that indices could reach even higher levels over the next few years. The balance is tilting towards emerging markets, particularly in Asia, which suggests that maintaining confidence in Indian equities is a wise strategy. However, it's important to acknowledge that in the short term, while waiting for these factors to play out, there might be market volatility.

Furthermore, there's a range of innovative fixed-income products available, particularly in the Portfolio Management Services (PMS) and Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) domains, aside from traditional mutual funds. Engaging with your financial advisor to explore these options and gradually increase your exposure could prove advantageous in the changing market landscape.

(Sandip Raichura – CEO of Retail Broking and Distribution & Director, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Ltd)

The article first appeared in Economic Times

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An app to help you invest

As the desire of investors and traders of all experience levels to participate seamlessly in the financial markets and achieve their monetary goals grows, several service providers are going the extra mile to help investors.

The main purpose of the platform is to simplify the complex world of investing, especially when investors face countless options available in the market. It is said that the all-in-one app has a a user-friendly interface that will help investors and traders break free from all the confusion related to their investments.

With the launch of its all-in-one mobile app HDFC SKY, customers will get access to a wide range of investment and trading offerings, including Indian stocks, ETFs, mutual funds, futures and options, currencies, commodities, IPOs, and global equities on a single Fintech platform.

According to Dhiraj Relli, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer at HDFC Securities the fintech innovation is tailored for the dynamic Indian investing and trading community. "With a flat pricing model, we

ensure transparency and affordability for all investors. What sets HDFC SKY apart is its cutting-edge technology, which will give our clients a secure, efficient and user-friendly experience. HDFC SKY is more than an app. It's a testament to our dedication to excellence in financial services," he said.

Sandeep Bhardwaj, Chief Operating and Digital Officer at HDFC Securities, said the company was capitalising on the latest technological advancements to provide products and right solutions for investors through innovative platforms.

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BM NAVARANG 2023

Navarang with Bangalore Mirror

The Dasara festivities have kicked off with enthusiasm in the city. On the first day of the BM Navarang festival, we witnessed a tremendous response from readers who shared their photos with family and friends. From the numerous submissions, we have chosen the best photos for the day. With eight more days to go, it's your turn to participate in the celebration and share your photos.

Submit your group photos/selfies, along with names, addresses, and mobile numbers, to our WhatsApp line before 3 pm daily.

Our number is given below.

The best group photo stands a chance to be featured in BM-Navarang.

Please note that Bangalore Mirror reserves the right to use any of these photos for future promotions.

Today's colour: White

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Champaka and friends, Vittal Nagar

Suchitra and Friends, KHB Platinum Kengeri Satelite Town

Subhadra and friends, Guni Agrahara, Shivaram Karanth Layout

Kamala and Friendss, Gruhalakshmi Layout

Padmamma and Meenakshi

Bhuvana Benaka Nagekoota, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar

Shilpa BK , Basaveshwara Road, Agrahara Mysore

Shankara Sathsanga, Vasanthapura

Vijayalaxmi Bilkar & Anuradha Bilkar, Deepanjali Nagar

Padmamma and relatives

VRR Fortuna Divas, Sarjapur Road

Sandhya and friends, Kengeri Upanagara

91 Lakes, 1 plea: Rescue now!

Concerned citizens launch online petition to save Bengaluru's dying lakes

A file photo of hundreds of fish dead due to contaminated water from Chikkanagamangala MSW Processing Plant besides Chikkanagamangala lake

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With multiple lakes in dire need of attention and immediate action, concerned citizens have initiated an online petition to revive these vital water bodies and safeguard the future. The petition underscores the urgent necessity for comprehensive restoration and rejuvenation plans for all 91 lakes in the city.

This campaign is a collaborative effort between Jhatkaa.org and the Namma Bengaluru Foundation. It highlights numerous complaints from residents across the city who have experienced discoloured or foul-smelling water from bore wells, indicating the alarming infiltration of sewage and chemical pollutants into the groundwater. Observable signs such as water discolouration, turbidity, and unpleasant odours are stark indicators of water contamination. A comprehensive study conducted by the Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) revealed that industrial effluents, sewage, and irresponsible dumping of solid waste mar approximately 85% of Bengaluru's waterbodies.

> **"The lakes are the most neglected water bodies in Namma Bengaluru. Since 2017, no factory has been penalised for polluting the lakes**
> –Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

Vinod Jacob from Namma Bengaluru Foundation said, "The lakes are the most neglected water bodies in Namma Bengaluru. Since 2017, no factory has been penalised for polluting the lakes. We have a good network of lakes, and if the rajakaluves can be connected, we will be able to solve two issues, the depleting water table in the city and the city's flooding during monsoons. BWSSB, BBMP lakes and KSPCB have to join hands to make this change and protect our lakes and stormwater drains."

The petition highlighted the need to issue closure orders and fines for industries polluting lakes within Bengaluru, especially for Bellandur Lake, as ordered by the NGT. Collect data on water quality, publish it in the public domain, and create and implement lake restoration and rejuvenation plans.

Ram Prasad, Co-founder of Friends of Lakes, said, "The issue of lakes being in a neglected state has been going on for years together. Every citizen lakes groups have been fighting for it for many years. The only two responsible for the lake's condition are the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the custodian of the lake. The KSPCB puts out data on which class the lake is in, and most of the lakes are either in Class D or Class E. However, no efforts are made to develop an action plan to bring the lake's water quality to a lesser class like Class A, B or C. While the custodians of the lake should look after the maintenance of the lake's water quality. To maintain that, the right technology should be brought and used scientifically to ensure the water quality is maintained well. Every lake has its period where it gets into a restoration stage, and till five years, it is in a good state and again deteriorates, and the story repeats. Lakes like Bommasandra and Bande Nalla Sandra are in the worst condition now. It is very important to bring out action plans and then only carry out indications of the class category of the lake. "

Marishia Rodrigues, a senior campaigner at Jhatkaa.org, said, "Even though Bangalore now has various other sources of water, these lakes play a role of great importance in supporting the underground reserves of water that the city relies on along with providing flood protection in an ever-changing climate. Our authorities have forgotten the value the lakes provide to their constituencies, and this campaign was initiated to draw their attention to the state of our lakes and demand the closure and issue of fines to industries polluting the lakes, conduct studies to analyse the status of our lakes and create and implement rejuvenation plans for all our lakes."

App-lifting accountability

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The Lake Wing of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has initiated the development of a mobile application designed to facilitate monitoring water bodies across the city. Rs 10 lakh has been allocated to develop the application. Currently, the BBMP oversees the management of 202 lakes, with 19 currently lying unused. The remaining 183 lakes are either undergoing development projects or have already undergone comprehensive redevelopment.

Through the application, citizens will be able to raise complaints regarding various issues, such as cleanliness or sewage entering. These will then be directed to the zonal or divisional officer responsible in the jurisdiction for action to be taken swiftly. Along with this, citizens will also be able to view information such as the total area of the lake, the quantity of water and other amenities available in the lake premises (play zone for children and exercising equipment). However, the application's primary function is to increase accountability and transparency with regard to the lakes managed by the municipal body. The contractors involved in the maintenance will be mandated to upload daily maintenance photographs on the application, eradicating the need for daily inspections by authorities. Officials will be able to ensure oversight through online monitoring. Lake activists have welcomed the move, although it is a little late.

A total budget of Rs 35 crore has been allocated to maintain 174 lakes. The total budget also includes the funds the corporation requires to maintain 15 sewage treatment plants installed this year. BBMP claims to have fully developed 114 lakes, while another 42 lakes are a work in progress. The remaining 27 are set to be developed in the future when the required funds are allocated.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Elephant's wisdom

Inaugurating Dasara in Mysuru on Sunday, Hamsalekha stressed a powerful message- "clear and nuclear." He recalled a story of Abhimanyu, the lead elephant in Jumbo Savari. Abhimanyu, employed in the forest for timber transport, obediently followed the mahout's instructions. He said, "On one occasion, Abhimanyu consciously left behind two logs. However, the officers who were present on the ground forced Mahout to instruct Abhimanyu to shift the remaining logs as well. A reluctant Abhimanyu took up the task given by his mahout. However, as soon as one of the logs was dumped, the other logs fell off the truck, indicating that the truck was already overloaded. This was why Abhimanyu refused to load the remaining two logs." By narrating this story, Hamsalekha drew a striking parallel to the nuclear scenario, highlighting that only seven atomic bombs were sufficient to devastate the entire world, yet we possess over a thousand. He questioned why our leaders fail to grasp the wisdom of elephants—knowing what is enough and how much is enough.

NDMA alert test creates stir

Last Thursday, the National Disaster Management Authority tested alert messages marked by a loud vibration. Despite prior warnings urging people not to panic, confusion ensued as Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former minister Jagadish Shettar, and Laxman Savadi addressed a press conference. Mobile phones on the dais, including those of the dignitaries, started vibrating precisely when the alert message was to be delivered. Even DKS, while addressing the media, had to pause briefly until someone explained that it was simply an exercise by NDMA.

Dramatic confrontation

Wednesday witnessed high drama as RR Nagar MLA Munirathna confronted his former Congress boss, DK Shivakumar. Alleging a reduction in funds for his constituency, Muniratna decided to stage a hunger strike near Vidhana Soudha at the Mahatma Gandhi statue. Learning that DKS would address a Kambala meeting at Palace Grounds, Muniratna positioned himself in the first row to garner the Congress leader's attention. Upon DKS's exit, Muniratna confronted him and publicly fell at his feet. DKS, visibly embarrassed, dismissed it as theatrics and suggested a private meeting at his home. Later that evening, the leaders met, and post-meeting, Muniratna expressed satisfaction in conveying his grievances.

Cross-border mourning

A fire tragedy struck Attibele last week, claiming 14 lives and prompting mourning in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, as some victims hailed from the neighbouring state. CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, overseeing the situation, were surprised to find the Tamil Nadu minister among the attendees. Upon learning of his presence, Siddaramaiah inquired about the ex-gratia announced by Tamil Nadu. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar stressed the need for enhanced safety measures at cracker manufacturing units.

Reality TV twist

In the political arena of neighbouring Chikkaballapur, the ongoing rivalry between the current MLA and the ex-MLA took an unexpected turn. MLA Pradeep Eshwar made headlines by making a surprise appearance on the Kannada reality TV show Bigg Boss. This move prompted a response from ex-MLA Dr K Sudhakar, questioning if anyone could recall a current MLA participating in a reality show.

–Sridhar Vivan

Alternative for waterlogged RUBs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now K-RIDE officials have come up with the aforesaid 'raised formation' that allows vehicular traffic at the ground level.

"We are planning the 'raised formation' at the level crossing between Hebbal and Banaswadi railway stations. Usually, we eliminate level crossings by replacing them with RUBs/ROBs (rail over-bridges). In this location, both are not viable as the area is densely populated. We would have to wait for land acquisition and dismantling of buildings to complete the work. Hence, we proposed the raising of the railway track. The track will be roughly 6.5 m above the ground and the road levels will be maintained the same. We are using a precast box method to divert the traffic," said a K-RIDE official.

K-RIDE is eliminating 23 LCs and has been able to do away with 16 acres of land acquisition, saving nearly Rs 130 crore. Within the stretch of Corridor 2, six level crossings are being eliminated using this method. As most of the suburban rail line is being laid adjacent to Indian Railways tracks, the challenge lies in not disturbing the lines.

According to K-RIDE officials, the new raised formation is set up by erecting a retaining wall and laying a sacrificial wall retainer next to the existing Indian Railways track. Further, the earthwork for the first suburban track is completed and the raised formation is constructed. The suburban track is laid and Indian Railways track traffic is diverted to the suburban track. Earthwork for the remaining suburban track is laid and the existing Indian Railways track and balance raised formation work is completed. Finally, the LC is eliminated.

The foundation stone for Corridor was laid on June 20, 2022, and the first civil contact i.e. Corridor 2 (Chikkabanavara to Benniganahalli, 25.2 km) was awarded to M/s L&T on 26.08.22. Egis Rail SA-AECOM-Louis Berger (JV), a multinational firm, was appointed as general consultant for the project by K-RIDE. The alignment of Corridor 2 was approved by South Western Railways on June 19, 2023. Work is going on full swing in the priority stretch from Chikkabanavara to Yeshwantpur (approximately 8 km stretch). K-RIDE is planning to commission this stretch first.

For this purpose, the Railways land of about 157 acres required has been taken over after almost 6 months of correspondence with South Western Railways in December 2022. However, existing encroachments & structures on Railways land are still being removed. Private land required for laying of tracks has been acquired as well.

Government land of about 2.72 acres was acquired out of 7.73 acres. Defence land of about 7.38 acres required at three locations Jalahalli, Nagawara, CQAE near Yeshwantpur is required for the project. While working permission - in principle approval - was obtained in all the locations from Defence authorities, physical possession is yet to be handed over to K-RIDE.

Good or bad news? NMC's seat cap sparks debate

Some say K'taka won't get new medical colleges now, while others see it as hope for good-quality education

File photo of students waiting outside a National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) centre in the city

With the National Medical Commission (NMC) imposing limits on the number of seats in medical colleges across states, Karnataka and other southern states may face restrictions on new college approvals. This decision has sparked a debate, with some experts expressing concerns that Karnataka might not witness the establishment of new medical colleges in the near future. On the contrary, other experts view this as a positive step, asserting that it will enhance the quality of medical education.

In its latest directive, the NMC has capped the number of undergraduate medical seats in each state at 100 per million population, aiming to prevent overcrowding in medical colleges. According to the NMC notification, this restriction could potentially add 40,000 MBBS seats nationwide if the distribution is even.

However, southern states like Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, that already have a significant number of medical colleges, may face limitations on establishing new ones, as calculated by the NMC. Existing colleges, however, will remain unaffected. The rationale behind this move is to avoid compromising the quality of education by rapidly converting area hospitals into medical colleges.

After the Karnataka government's announcement of setting up new medical colleges in almost every district, some upgraded area hospitals lack sufficient infrastructure and faculty. While infrastructure development may take four to five years, faculty shortages may persist, potentially impacting the standard of education. A professor said on condition of anonymity, "This would enhance the quality of medical education by focusing on infrastructure and manpower at a limited number of colleges. We can draw a parallel with engineering education two decades ago, where increased seats led to a decline in quality and resulted in unemployment, a similar situation in medical education shouldn't happen now."

The NMC has introduced a format with 18 categories in the Undergraduate (UG) admission monitoring module, and no modifications will be allowed beyond the cut-off date. The commission may request additional supportive documents.

It's worth noting that in August, the commission announced that, starting from the 2023-2024 academic year, the letter of permission for new medical colleges will be issued only for annual intakes of 50/100/150 seats.

This is subject to the medical college adhering to the ratio of 100 MBBS seats for every 10 lakh population in the respective State/UT. This move has faced opposition from several states, with officials arguing that it infringes on states' rights and penalises those that invested more in public health infrastructure.

Citing a Supreme Court judgment, they contend that the executive instructions cannot impose reasonable restrictions on the fundamental right to establish educational institutions under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India, making the notification legally untenable.

Meanwhile, the NMC has instructed medical colleges to upload details of students, including name, NEET score, category, and date of admission, who joined MBBS in 2023 by October 20 after verification. The responsibility for uploading accurate information lies with the colleges, as stated in a notification from the undergraduate medical board.

In its latest directive, the NMC has capped the number of undergraduate medical seats in each state at 100 per million population, aiming to prevent overcrowding in medical colleges

Students caught cheating in CET

In a shocking incident, a few students have been caught submitting fake documents for CET counseling. Karnataka Examinations Authority executive director S Ramya said, "It has come to our notice that, to secure medical seats, a few students have submitted fake documents. We have filed a police case for further investigation." Sources indicate that KEA has identified three separate cases. In one case, a girl student faked her NEET scorecard and result sheet. When she arrived at the college for admission, officials discovered her name was missing from the admission portal, leading to the information being conveyed to the KEA. In another case, a student falsely claimed to have obtained a good rank and attempted to secure a seat in a prestigious college. Upon cross-verification, it was revealed that she had engaged in fraudulent activity.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Raveen Bhatnagar R/o 4044,prestige Sunrise Park, Norwood, Neo Town, Electronic City Phase-1, Bengaluru 560100 have changed my minor daughter's name from Tisya Bhatnagar to Teisya Bhatnagar.

I Zakir Pasha S/O, Mohammed Ameer R/o No 572 29th Main 11th Cross Near Mosque Btm Layout 2nd Stage Bangalore 56076 have changed my name to Mohammed Zakeer.

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Food for earth

Tips on how you can go about to make compost at home

Compost is decayed organic matter that serves as a natural fertiliser for plants. It not only enriches the soil and reduces the need for chemical fertilisers, but also helps it retain moisture while keeping plant diseases and pests at bay. Happily, compost is easy to make at home using kitchen scraps, thus reducing waste.

Read on to know how to go about making compost at home.

Know What You Can Compost

Vegetable and fruit waste, including peels and cores, grains, used coffee grounds and tea leaves, old spices, corn cobs and husks, bread, pizza, anything made of flour and crushed eggshells can all be used to make compost. Refrain from adding meat or meat waste, dairy products, or oil to make compost as they break down slowly and can attract rodents and create the perfect environment for maggots.

Pick A Place

If you have a garden, you simply need to pick a spot where you can dig about eight inches deep. You can also make compost in a pail or bucket. Leave this in the corner of your garden or under your sink or in your balcony. There are many easy-to-use composting kits that are now available online.

Collect Scraps

If you don't have time to add kitchen scraps to the compost bin right away, store them in the freezer until you're ready to compost. You can keep a small bin in the kitchen to collect scraps throughout the day. Use a lidded bin that can be washed easily. Remember to chop or shred the scraps before storing or composting; this allows for faster composting.

> **Vegetable & fruit waste, including peels and cores, grains, used coffee grounds and tea leaves, eggshells, and flour can be used to make compost**

Make Compost

If you are making compost in your garden, simply empty the scraps in the eight-inch-deep hole and cover with dirt. If using a compost bin, empty scraps into the bin, cover with a little peat moss, soil, humus, or finished compost. You can line the bin with newspaper to absorb odours. Keep the bin closed. Replace the newspaper as it absorbs moisture from the bin.

Use Compost

Depending on the quantity, compost can take up to three months or more to get ready.

To check if your compost is ready to use, see if it feels like topsoil and smells earthy instead of like rotting scraps. Once prepared, add compost as a top layer to the soil or mix it into the ground.

Keep It Real

Bengaluru-based Poonam Bir Kasturi, founder of Daily Dump, an organisation whose objective is to reduce waste and improve material recovery, among others, is very transparent with regards to the nature of composting: "We don't say that it won't smell. Take the analogy of a child – it's not that you choose not to have a child because it cries; if the child cries, it needs attention. Similarly, if your compost smells, it is just calling out for attention." Daily Dump designed the Khamba, India's classic stack composter, way back in 2006. Interestingly, it's now a national symbol for home composting!

As a testimonial on the website reads, "I thought it would be messy, stinky and unhygienic. I was in for a pleasant surprise. There is no unpleasant odour, no mess. All it needs is some tender love and care."

Contain The Odours

We bring you a few tips to contain the odours that might arise from your composter

Aerate the compost by turning it. This helps the aerobic bacteria get to work and break down the waste. Add dry material such as dry leaves, shredded paper or cardboard to the compost to absorb excess water. Extra moisture forces oxygen out of the compost, which creates the perfect environment for anaerobic bacteria to get to work, leading to unpleasant odours.

Never add meat, meat products, fats, and dairy to your compost heap as these give off putrid odours as they decay.

by Kalwyna Rathod, Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Protein therapy can be a safe approach to treat peanut allergy

A tiny bit of protein therapy under the tongue could be a safe and effective approach in treating peanut-allergic children ranging from 1 to 4 years of age, a new study has shown.

According to the study published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, the Peanut Sublingual Immunotherapy (Peanut SLIT) is safe in peanut-allergic toddlers, with a greater likelihood of desensitisation and remission the earlier the treatment began.

This is the first randomised controlled experiment to look into the efficacy and feasibility of SLIT, which involves a tiny bit of peanut protein absorbed under the tongue, in this young age group.

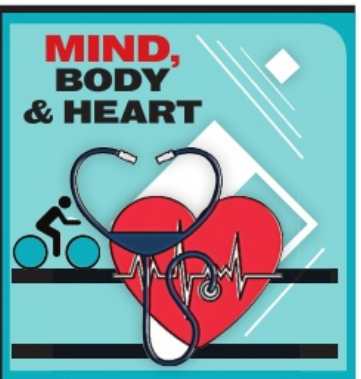
The study included peanut-allergic children randomised to receive 4 mg peanut SLIT versus placebo. A total of 50 participants were enrolled.

The findings showed that peanut SLIT can be highly effective in treating peanut-allergic toddlers, with almost 80 per cent tolerating 15 peanuts without allergic symptoms after completing the treatment.

In addition, researchers showed that remission of the peanut allergy may be possible after peanut SLIT, with 63 per cent of the toddlers maintaining their protection three months after stopping the treatment.

"The desensitisation levels we saw were higher than expected and on par with levels we normally would only expect with oral immunotherapy. Just as important, rather than wearing off quickly, we were excited to see that over 60 per cent stayed protected three months after stopping the treatment," said Edwin Kim, corresponding author of the study, MD, associate professor of paediatrics at the UNC School of Medicine in the US.

One of the presumed strengths of the SLIT approach, when compared to OIT (oral immunotherapy) has been its overall safety and simple administration, the study mentioned. **–IANS**



All you need to know about...

Losing weight alone

Going it alone just as effective

While many people believe that losing weight as a couple is a great way to achieve their weight loss goals, a new study has found that going it alone can be just as effective.

Grit and perseverance

The study published in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine has highlighted how characteristics of "grit" (the ability to persevere toward long-term goals) and self-control are associated with better weight loss and weight maintenance in couples.

12-month study

The 12-month study included a six-month intervention and then a follow-up after another six months with the 64 couples.

The researchers had participants fill out questionnaires to assess their levels of self-control and grit at the start and end of the study.

They also engaged participants in a behavioural weight loss intervention to decrease calorie intake and increase physical activity.

No couple effect

At the end of the study, the researchers found that there was no couple effect.

Couples did not start out with similar levels of self-control or grit, and, if one member of a couple improved their grit or self-control over the course of the study, their partner did not necessarily experience similar changes.

Individuality kicks in

"While couples tend to share weight management behaviours, this study found that there wasn't any social influence between the couples when it comes to self-control or grit. Instead, these are more individual characteristics," said Tricia Leahey, of Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP). But, even without specifically focusing on increasing self-control and grit, participants did see improvements, according to the study. **–IANS**

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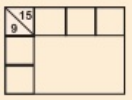
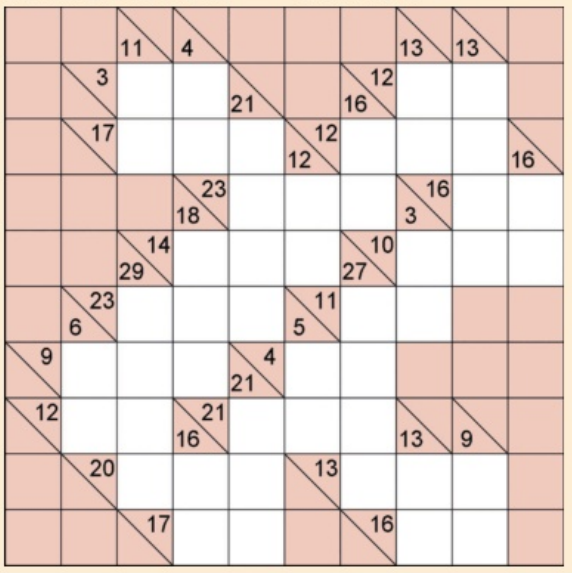
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

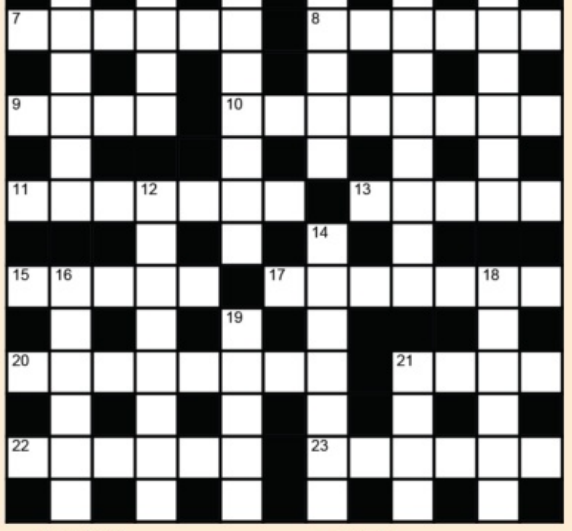


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Hindu hermitage (6)
8 Cheap-jack (6)
9 Rapid (4)
10 Was a threat or a menace (8)
11 Precious stone (7)
13 Greek philosopher (5)
15 An extra (5)
17 Ruffians (7)
20 Makes a mess (8)
21 Long story (4)
22 Of clothes, short and revealing (6)
23 Badgered constantly (6)

DOWN

1 Bollywood's comedian (6)
2 Legal document (4)
3 Encompassing (7)
4 Halts (5)
5 Cheated or defrauded (8)
6 Pressing or compelling (6)
12 Nautical (8)
14 Throwing into the air (7)
16 P in BBMP (6)
18 Young bird of prey (6)
19 African country (5)
21 Wise (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS U

OKD RFU RDP FQQ PVT GQKHTWE YDP OKD RFUUKP LTTA EAWZUC GWKS RKSZUC.

Linemaro

Last night I had hiccups, and the only thing that comforted me to sleep was repeating your name over and over

Mindchow

Funny how moms can tell you what to do no matter how old or big you are

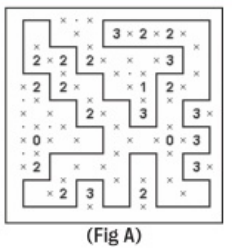
Joke of the day

Vegetarian: Native American definition for 'lousy hunter'

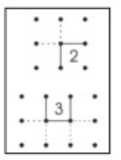
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

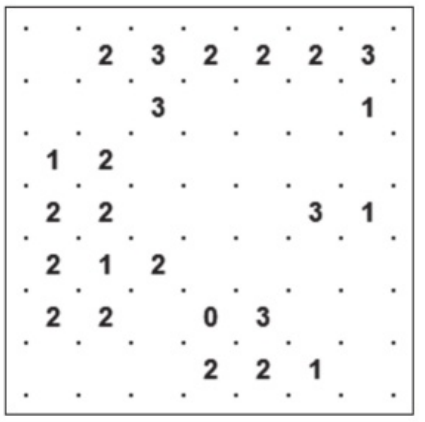


(Fig B) Not Allowed

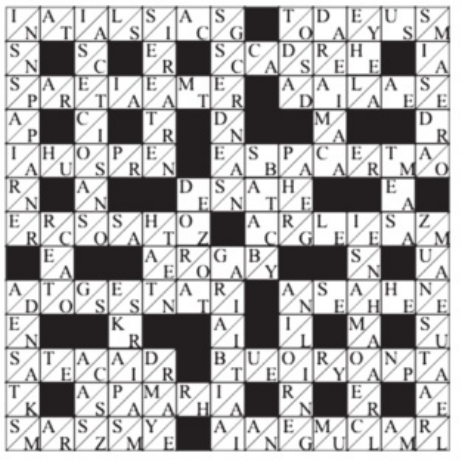
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set....

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				Y

ACROSS

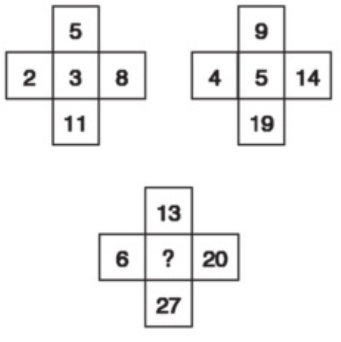
1 Ranks; 6 Envoi;
7 Emirs; 8 Hears;
9 Yo lid

DOWN

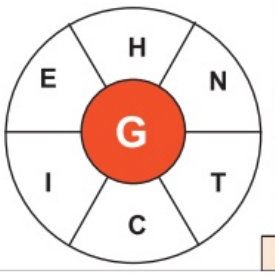
1 Damon; 2 Via so;
3 Irish; 4 N leek;
5 Yes RR

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

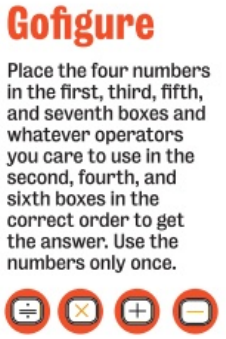
SudokuChallenge

7			5		9			6
				6				
5	6						1	2
	1	5	4		2	7	6	
4								5
	8	6	7		3	2	4	
6	4						7	3
				7				
2			1		5			9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



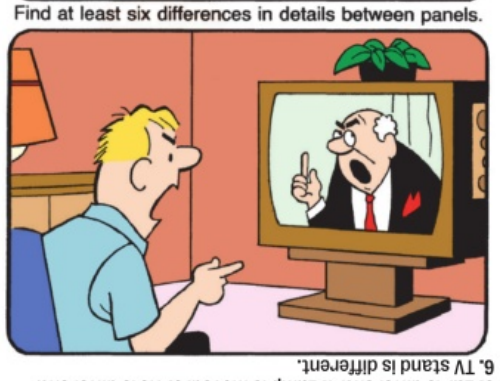
Easy = 7
2 4 6 7

Medium = 12
5 5 6 6

Hard = 8
2 8 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



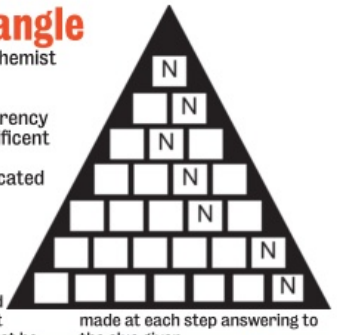
Differences: 1. Finger is moved. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Ear is different. 4. Lamp is moved. 5. Tie is different. 6. TV stand is different.

Riddler

I am more microscopic than microscopic; I am more minuscule than minuscule. I am smaller than small and I am tinier than tiny. Yet surprisingly, I am still big. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 Article
3 Besides
4 South African currency
5 Majestic or magnificent
6 Mythical menace
7 Extremely complicated



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HEY, SID, CAN YOU MAKE A GROSSHOPPER?
WHAT'S A GROSSHOPPER?
IT'S A GRASSHOPPER WITH A BOOGER IN IT
©2023 creators.com 8/4
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Hart of the city

HEY, HEART. UH... ARE YOU GOING TO THE DANCE?
BRENT. WE'RE ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE TOGETHER. OF COURSE I'M GOING TO THE DANCE.
GREAT! I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN!
WAIT, WHAT?!

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. After a sound sleep, you may feel healthy and enjoy every moment. The moon will boost your confidence, reflecting on your work. Old health issues may be resolved now. You are likely to help a needy person, enhancing your respect.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, affecting your work. There could be a delay in your current projects, possibly leading to arrogance. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rushed driving. Lovebirds may experience a breakup.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may likely get a significant order, boosting your business. With the help of influential people, you may gain advantages at work, even expecting promotions. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Planning to renovate your house or office could enhance your status. Enjoy romantic moments with your loved one.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at work, possibly making you mentally tired due to overload. You may not be able to enjoy a family event or may arrive very late, affecting domestic harmony. Your seniors may praise your efficiency, potentially leading to a job promotion.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by elders. The crunch of the last few days may be resolved now, and destiny may favour you. Your stalled projects may automatically start, and the stuck money may likely be recovered. You may plan a religious trip with your family, increasing your inner strength. There's a chance for an overseas trip or long-distance travel.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be affected by negative moon influences, making you upset and arrogant, preparing for sudden and unexpected daily routine changes. Profits could become losses, so it's advised to postpone investments for a few days. You might be in a self-exploration stage, approaching the realities of life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Money that was stuck may be recovered, improving liquidity in your business. You may hold a leading position in your office concerning projects and may receive incentives through promotions. Bonding with your spouse may improve, creating domestic harmony.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may resolve many problems with your way of speaking. Planning an advanced course to enhance your skills could benefit your future career. Lovebirds may enjoy romantic moments. You may gain control over your opponents and rivals. Planning for a house or vehicle loan is also on the cards.

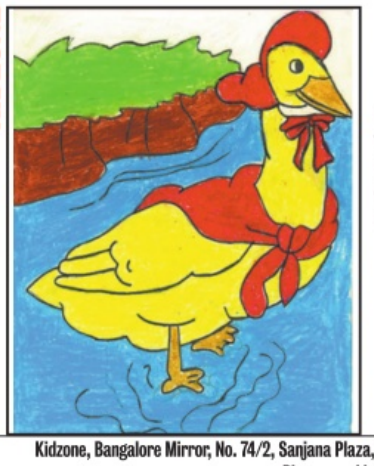
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy with your kid's education and likely to travel for it. Considering a change in your current job or pursuing higher education for career enhancement is advisable. Good news in terms of competitive examinations might come your way. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may experience a change in your place or position. It's advised to read any document carefully before signing. Be cautious about your parent's health. Investments in risky assets might lead to losses, so postponing such investments for a few days is suggested.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon, making you energetic and enabling fast decisions in your business. Your subordinates may help you complete your project on time, building trust in the environment. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now. Those in a job may receive incentives in terms of promotions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may control your straightforwardness, which could affect your relationship with people around you. Planning to renovate your house or spending on buying artefacts for your home is likely. You may enjoy a social event, enhancing your network. Investing capital in your family business is also a possibility.

KIDZONE



Mary T J, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Shrimikal Roy, 11 Years, St. Joseph's Convent School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(1/4)÷(1/2) = 1/2
(36/100)÷(1/2) = 6/10
1/2 x 10(6)/10
1/2 x 6 = 3

BULL'S EYE
eight, ETCHING, gent, hinge, neigh, nigh, night, thing, tinge

STRIKE OUT

FAST FIVE

N	A	R	K	S
O	V	I	N	E
M	I	S	E	R
A	S	H	E	R
D	O	I	L	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming.

QUICK

RIDDLER
The word "big". It only has 3 letters and is therefore shorter in length than the words "tiny", "small", "minuscule", and "microscopic".

MENSA PUZZLE
7: the numbers round the centre increase by seven (in the others they increase by five and five respectively)

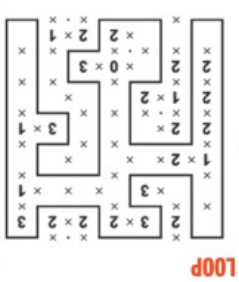
SUDOKU

2	3	7	1	4	5	6	8	9
8	5	9	3	7	6	1	2	4
6	4	1	9	2	8	5	7	3
9	8	6	7	5	3	2	4	1
4	7	2	6	8	1	3	9	5
3	1	5	4	9	2	7	6	8
5	6	4	8	3	7	9	1	2
1	9	3	2	6	4	8	5	7
7	2	8	5	1	9	4	3	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, And, Rand, Grand, Dragon, Gordian.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 – 6 + 2 + 7 = 7
Medium
5 + 6 + 6 – 5 = 12
Hard
5 + 8 – 9 x 2 = 8

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Put a ring on it
Hollywood star Chris Evans flaunted his wedding ring for the first time since getting married to actress Alba Baptista

Stars of the show

Sobhita, Diana, Kiara turn showstoppers

The last day of Lakme Fashion Week 2023 saw actress Sobhita Dhulipala walking the ramp in a glamorous avatar. On Sunday, Sobhita turned muse for the label De Belle. Dressed in an ivory ensemble, Sobhita undoubtedly managed to grab eyeballs with her look.

She looked exquisite in a one-shoulder bralette blouse adorned with silver and white embellishments, paired with a lehenga skirt featuring silver zari motifs. The one-shoulder bralette blouse is complemented by a dupatta trail.

Actor Diana Penty too graced the ramp in an ethnic lehenga designed by Paulmi and Harsh. She made heads turn in a charcoal lehenga that she paired with a silver-grey off-shoulder blouse.

She accentuated her look with stunning jewellery. Speaking of her hairstyle, she tied her tresses in a messy bun.

Sunday was also Kiara Advani 's day as she stole the show in her black and golden bodycon gown. Kiara walked the ramp for Falguni Shane Peacock and caught the attention of everyone present over there.

–Agencies

Living in harmony

KUDRU (KANNADA)
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Bhaskar Naik
- **ACTORS** Priya Hegde, Harshith Shetty, Godwin Sparkle, Vinutha Gowda, Daina D'Souza, Farhan
- **Duration** 116 minutes
- **Certification** UA

A scene from Kudru

Kudru is about an island where all communities live in harmony. The story revolves around three youngsters- Sadananda, Arun, Arif, and Reshma - who are childhood friends but belong to different communities. Though Sadananda aka Sada is a Brahmin, he loves non-vegetarian food and has the freedom to enter the kitchen of a Muslim family to eat fish curry. Meanwhile, Reshma gets married and goes to Saudi Arabia. Sadananda, who manages to just scrape through in his science degree, aims to become a scientist and engages himself in understand the workings of drones. Sadananda and Arif get a chance to work in Saudi Arabia. They too get married and are leading happy family lives. Meanwhile, a small argument takes place between Arif and Sadananda over a post on social media. The next scene is when Arif gets killed in an accident but Saudi Arabia police arrest Sadananda and he is expected to be beheaded in 30 days. What happens to Sadananda is what Kudru is all about.

Most of the actors are newcomers. Director Bhaskar Naik deserves appreciation for not only selecting an apt script but also for handling the megaphone with aplomb. He has succeeded in getting the best out of all the actors. Bhavya and Vinutha Gowda have vied with each other for the top spot. Bhavya, as a wife who is determined to save her husband, and Vinutha Gowda, as a widow, have acted well.

The added advantage of the movie is that it has the potential to transport the audiences to a different world. Cinematographer Sree Puranik has done an excellent job behind the camera. Music by Pratik Kundu is soothing. The song - Baduku Ondu Bavane - is good and meaningful.

The movie is worth a watch for all.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

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